

Notable News



Building Better Neighborhoods

A Newsletter for San Diego County Housing Authority Rental Assistance Program Participants

Fall 2006

On-line Waiting List Application System

Applicants to our Section 8 rental assistance waiting list can now apply on-line. They can also make changes to their existing waiting list applications.

This secure system is available 24 hours a day to anyone with Internet access. The on-line waiting list system is accessed at www.sdhcd.org.

Violence Against Women Act 2005 (VAWA)

VAWA affords rights to victims of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking who are applicants or participants of the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program.

VAWA places restrictions on evictions from Section 8-assisted housing, and denial or termination of Section 8 benefits for violations of the lease or family obligations due to a household member being a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) at 202-307-6026 or visit the DOJ website at www.usdoj.gov/ovw.

Inspection Unit

We are piloting a separate housing quality standards inspection unit. The pilot inspection unit began operating July 1, 2006. Over 4,500 assisted units were assigned to the pilot.

It is expected that the inspection unit will eventually handle all inspections. This change will reduce costs, increase efficiency, and provide better customer service.

For more information on the inspection unit, contact your housing representative.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act), as amended, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the HUD Hot Line at (800) 669-9777.

Things to Know

- ◇ The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System is now used to verify and confirm income information directly from a central data source. This system is used to confirm that income is reported. Action is taken if income is unreported or underreported.
- ◇ Postage paid return envelopes are no longer provided, so don't forget to put the proper amount of postage on any returned mail.
- ◇ To preserve confidential information, the family summary will not be included with the rent change letters. A copy will be mailed on request.
- ◇ If you are self-employed, you must summarize your records by income and expenses and provide a copy of your last federal income tax return.
- ◇ Review your inspection checklist and make sure that all necessary repairs are completed **prior** to your inspection so that your unit will pass the first time.
- ◇ Additions to the household are restricted. Do not let anyone move in until you get permission. Most additions are limited to two people per year. Adults added to the household must have a steady income history. New program admissions have a 12-month restriction on additions to the household.
- ◇ Medical expense claims for elderly/disabled households must be submitted in good order. Claims must be legible and have all information necessary to evaluate the claim.
- ◇ Families with zero income or little income must provide a monthly statement on how they are meeting their needs, along with monthly expense receipts.
- ◇ A new Student Rule means some school financial aid will now be counted as income.
- ◇ Assistance cannot be transferred more than once every twelve months.
- ◇ Families may be required to repay all housing assistance payments made during the time they violated program requirements.
- ◇ The income of a spouse who is reported to have moved out of the assisted household cannot be omitted until a legal separation or divorce has been filed.
- ◇ Send **copies** of your documents! We are not responsible for original documents.

Questions? Contact your housing representative or check our website at:
www.sdhcd.org.

**Read the Important Information
on the Reverse Side**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We need you to serve on our Boards! The Section 8 Rental Assistance and Public Housing Programs are required to have a resident advisory board comprised of program participants. Two participants must also serve two-year terms on the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners are **paid** for each meeting they attend and serve along with the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. To be a Commissioner, you must first serve on the resident advisory board.



If you are interested in serving on the resident advisory board, have transportation, and are able to attend at least two meetings a year, please complete the information below and return in your recert packet. We hope you are willing to serve.

If you have any questions, please contact your housing representative. You will be contacted regarding this application during the next 12 months.

Print Name _____

Home Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone: _____ Housing Representative: _____

What are your principal areas of interest in serving our community?

What employment or other experience or special knowledge do you have?

Signature _____

Date _____

Return this in your packet to your Housing Representative.

Note to Housing Representative – please forward to Lorene Kellogg

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